BATTLEWORLD
Red Skull™
#3
MARVEL
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BEREDO
SECRET WARS

SECRET WARS

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!
ALL THAT REMAINS IS **BATTLEWORLD:** A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

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AFTER FAILING TO OVERTHROW DOOM, THE RED SKULL WAS SENT OVER THE SHIELD AS PUNISHMENT. ALTHOUGH DECLARED DEAD, HE BECAME A SYMBOL OF DISSENT FOR DENIZENS OF BATTLEWORLD WHO BELIEVED HIM TO BE ALIVE. IN RESPONSE, DOOM TASKED A TEAM OF CRIMINALS TO RETRIEVE PROOF OF RED SKULL'S DEMISE IN RETURN FOR THEIR FREEDOM.

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UPON VENTURING PAST THE SHIELD, ALL BUT MAGNETO WERE LOST TO A ZOMBIE HORDE. OVERWHELMED AND ALONE, MAGNETO WAS RESCUED BY NONE OTHER THAN THE RED SKULL HIMSELF! THOUGH INITIALLY RELUCTANT, RED SKULL AND ANNIHILUS RESTORED HIS POWERS OF MAGNETISM AND MAGNETO WAS CONVINCED TO HELP THEM DESTROY THE SHIELD—AND DOOM—FOREVER!

Red Skull

PART THREE: FREEDOM

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THE DEADLANDS.

DESTROY THE SHIELD!

YES! FOLLOW MAGNETO!

WITH THE *ANNIHILATION WAVE* WE CAN FINALLY TEAR DOWN THE WALL OF OUR OPPRESSORS!

FIRST THIS CURSED SHIELD AND THEN *DOOM* AND ALL HIS PRECIOUS KINGDOMS WILL FALL!

HOLD, RED SKULL! THE SHIELD WILL NOT FALL THAT EASILY. LET US FIRST SEE WHAT TRICKS THEY HAVE TO *DEFEND IT.*

THE RUMORS WERE TRUE... DAMMIT!
RED SKULL IS ALIVE!
IT APPEARS THAT HE MADE SOME KIND OF DEAL WITH ANNIHILUS' BUGS, COMMANDER BRAND.
AND HE HAS A MAGNETO WITH HIM!
IF THE TWO OF THEM ARE WORKING TOGETHER... BATTLEWORLD IS LOST!
DO WE CONTACT THE THORS?
MIGHT ALREADY BE TOO LATE!
BLAM BLAM
BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG
WHAT DO WE DO, MA'AM?
BLAM
FIRST, NEVER CALL ME MA'AM AGAIN, UNLESS YOU WANT TO FIND YOURSELF ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIELD.
SECOND, WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

"...UNLEASH THE SENTINELS!"
BOOSHH
ACTIVATING.
BOOSHH
BOOSHH
TERMINATE.
KKRRR-
TSH
KKRRR-
TSH
REMEMBER THE PLAN, MAGNETO!
DEFLECT THE SENTINELS WHILE I KNOCK DOWN THE SHIELD'S INNER DEFENSES!
ONCE THEY'RE DOWN... THE SHIELD WILL BE WEAK AND--
GO, RED SKULL. YOU'RE WASTING TIME.
THIS ISN'T MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH SENTINELS...

"...BUT IT WILL BE MY LAST!"
TARGETS IDENTIFIED. YOU ARE IN VIOLATION OF GOD DOOM'S LAWS.
SURRENDER OR DIE.
KEEP HEADING FOR THE SHIELD!
IF ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN ME AND MY FREEDOM ARE YOU MURDEROUS MACHINES, ALLOW ME TO RIP YOU APART!
THIS IS YOUR FINAL WARNING.
BACK AWAY FROM THE SHIELD.
IT TOOK A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL TO GET MY POWERS BACK...
...BUT AT LEAST I WILL NO LONGER BE CONFINED BY THIS CAGE!

TERMINATE.
WAIT...
MY POWERS! WHY ARE MY POWERS NOT HAVING ANY EFFECT ON THE SENTINELS?!
OH, NO...THAT NAZI BASTARD...
HE...LIED.
THOUGHT SO! OL' MASTER OF MAGNETISM DIDN'T KNOW THE SENTINELS WEREN'T METAL.
LET'S CLEAN HOUSE!
FULL SWEEP ATTACK, SENTINELS!
SQUASH THEM!
HA!

TERMINATE ALL RESISTANCE.
INSECTS ARE RETREATING.
THE SHIELD AND THE SENTINELS CONTAIN NO METAL...THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHERE IS RED SKULL?!
ZKT
ZKT
ZKT
TERMINATE.
THERE HAS TO BE ENOUGH METAL LEFT IN THE DEADLANDS FOR ME TO MOUNT AN ATTACK!
I CAN STILL DESTROY THE SHIELD!

ARGH!
TERMINATE.
ZZZKKTTTT
ELIMINATE ALL TARGETS.
ZZZZKKTTTT
ZZZKKTTTT
ZZKKTT

WHEW.
SHIELD IS SECURE, COMMANDER BRAND.
MAGNETO AND RED SKULL ARE DEAD. AND THE BUGS THAT WEREN'T SQUASHED ARE RETREATING TO NEW XANDAR.
HM. SEND THE SENTINELS BACK TO THEIR POSTS...BUT KEEP AN EYE OUT.
RETURN TO THE SHIELD.
HE TRICKED ME. USED ME.
WHERE IS HE?
WHERE IS...

RED SKULL!
RAARRGGHH
RRAHHH

OUT OF MY WAY!
FOOD!
IF YOU HAD CHOSEN MY WAY, YOU COULD HAVE BEEN A PART OF MY GLORIOUS ARMY AGAINST DOOM!
AH!
AND YET YOU MONSTERS DECIDED TO SIDE WITH ULTRON...
THEN IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ALL OF BATTLEWORLD IS UNDER MY HEEL.
YOU WILL LEAVE...

...BUT AS A DEAD MAN!
THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET YOU TO CROSSBONES...
I CAN BE FREE!
BET YOU'RE WISHING YOU DIDN'T RESTORE MY MUTANT ABILITIES... EH, RED SKULL?
I... STAND BY...MY ACTIONS.
REMOVING THAT DAMPENING COLLAR WAS THE KEY TO GETTING YOU TO...
...TRUST ME...BUT...

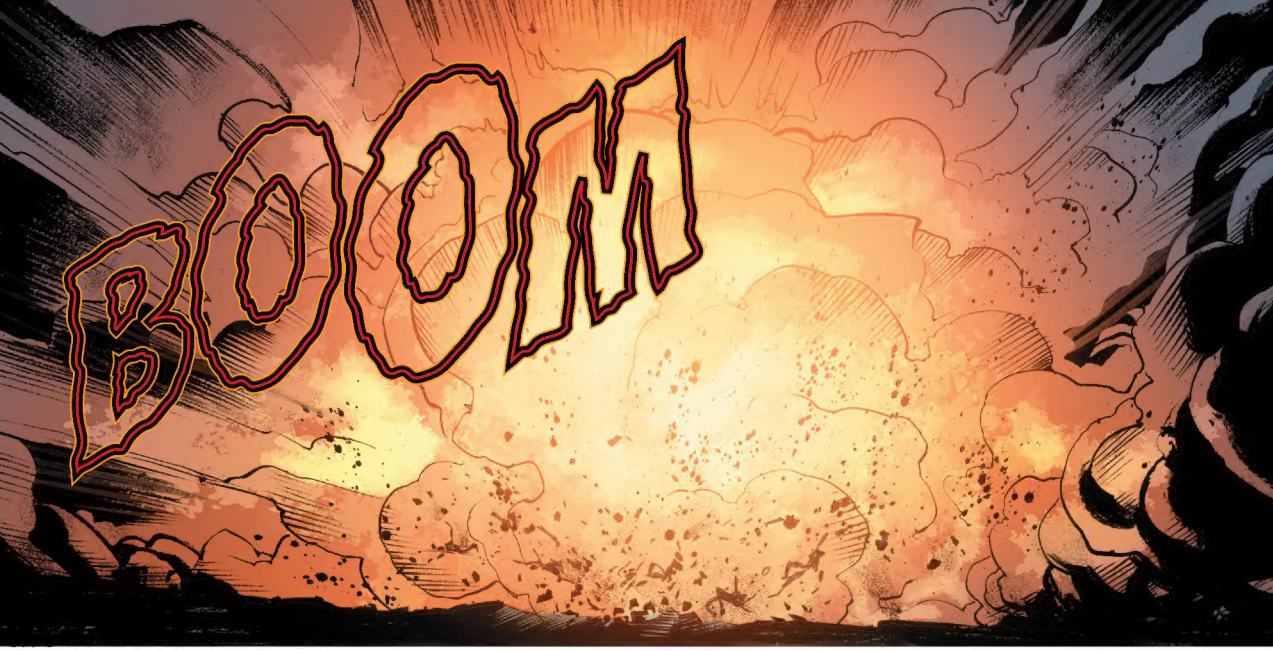
BEEP
AH!
...I NO LONGER DESIRE YOUR TRUST!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE...?
MY POWERS...
ARE USELESS!
JUST LIKE YOU!
YOUR NEW LOOK IS VERY BECOMING!
IT'S AN IMPROVEMENT!

SHUT UP!
YOU NEVER KNEW THE SHIELD'S WEAKNESSES, DID YOU?
I NEEDED A DISTRACTION TO MAKE MY ESCAPE. THE STORY OF THE LONE SURVIVOR WILL ADD TO MY MYTH IN DOOM'S BATTLEWORLD.
MAKING MY RISE FROM THE ASHES EVEN MORE MEANINGFUL!
CROSSBONES SAID DOOM JUST WANTED YOUR HEAD, AND I WILL HAND IT TO HIM...
MYSELF!
KRAK
LUCKY US. DINNER AND A SHOW!
THEY BOTH LOOK A LITTLE WELL-DONE!
NG! YOU CAN HAVE HIS BODY AFTER I'M DONE WITH HIM.
PARTS OF IT, AT LEAST.
SUCH A TOOL, MAGNETO. IN THIS WORLD AND ALL THE OTHERS.
THE GREAT MISGUIDED REVOLUTIONARY. ALL IT TOOK WAS WORDS TO TURN YOU TO MY SIDE.
WORDS MADE YOU BETRAY YOURSELF, BECAUSE DEEP DOWN YOU KNOW...

...YOU AND I ARE THE SAME.
IF THAT IS TRUE...
...WE BOTH DESERVE TO DIE!
NOT TODAY!
HERE IT COMES, BOYS!
DINNER'S SERVED!
NO!
YES!

AAHHH!
DELICIOUS.
TASTES LIKE BURNT BACON!

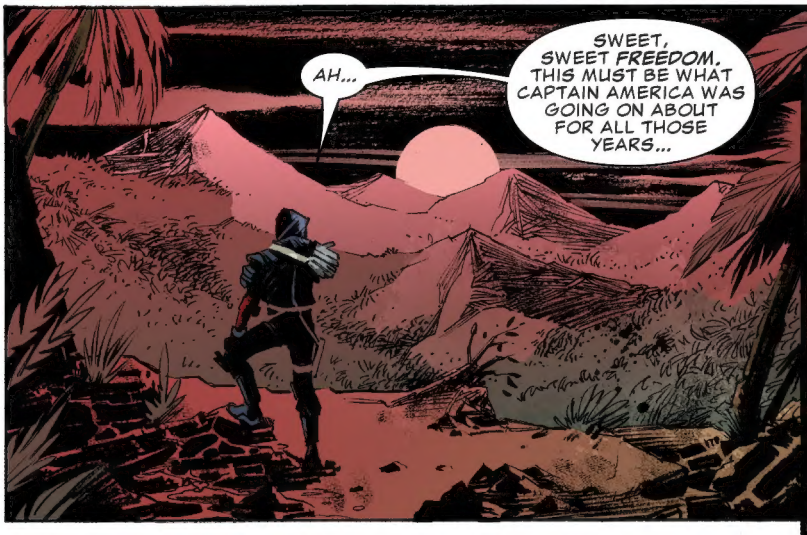
NO. NOT LIKE THIS.
ROGUE... I'M COMING HOME.
CLICK
BEEP

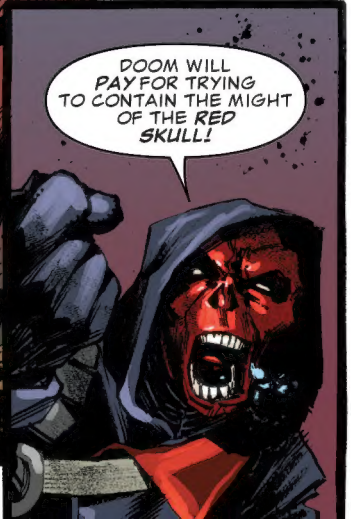

BOOM

TOO BAD, HE COULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL IN MY WAR AGAINST DOOM.
RED SKULL DNA IDENTIFIED.

IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE BRAND'S PEOPLE DISCOVER I DIDN'T DIE DURING THE ATTACK.

IN THE MEANTIME, I CAN REBUILD, TRAVEL BACK TO MY WORLD AND PLOT MY TRIUMPHANT RETURN.


AH...
SWEET, SWEET FREEDOM. THIS MUST BE WHAT CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS GOING ON ABOUT FOR ALL THOSE YEARS...


DOOM WILL PAY FOR TRYING TO CONTAIN THE MIGHT OF THE RED SKULL!

BANG

DIDN'T MATTER WHO CAME BACK OVER THE SHIELD...

...I WOULDA TOOK THEM ALL OUT.

THUK

JUST HAPPENED TO BE YOU.
SORRY, BOSS.
DOOM WANTING PROOF YOU WERE DEAD WAS A SOLID GIG BUT...THAT WASN'T WHY I TOOK THE JOB.
FOR ME TO KEEP BEING SPECIAL, I HAD TO BE THE ONLY ONE TO EVER ESCAPE.
BECAUSE, YOU SEE...
...NO ONE COMES BACK FROM THE SHIELD.
THE END.